

14
SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CONTROLLERS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OF THE

FIRST SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF
PENNSYLVANIA;

With their Accounts.

ALSO,

An abstract of the Law of March 6th, 1818, providing for Public
Education, and a List of the Controllers and Directors
elected for the year 1820.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL.

.....
1820.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from

This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

REPORT.

CONFORMABLY with the requisition of the seventh section of an act, entitled "*An Act to provide for the Education of Children at Public Expense in the City and County of Philadelphia,*" the Controllers of the Public Schools for the First School District of the State of Pennsylvania, report their proceedings and submit their accounts.

Since the last annual communication, it became necessary to procure lots, and erect and furnish two buildings, one for the accommodation of the children residing in the southern part of the city, and the other for the convenience of the pupils in Kensington, and part of the district of the Northern Liberties, bordering upon that populous section of the County of Philadelphia. Owing to these circumstances, a larger sum of money has been expended this year than had been intended, though the actual cost of education has not exceeded the economical rate, promised by the adoption of the new system, as will be subsequently exhibited.

The whole number of children now in the Public Schools, is 3268, of whom 1677 are boys, and 1591 girls, distributed as follows:

SCHOOLS.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Model	400	300	700
Lombard Street	186	163	349
Moyamensing	253	325	578
Southwark	286	172	458
Northern Liberties . . .	256	355	611
Kensington	219	213	432
Spring Garden	77	63	140
	<hr/> 1677 <hr/>	<hr/> 1591 <hr/>	<hr/> 3268 <hr/>

The Schools continue to be regularly inspected by committees of the respective bodies by which they are governed; and the whole of them have been examined by the Board of Control. From the quarterly reports, furnished by the sectional directors, the most satisfactory evidence, and animating information is given, of the progress of the pupils in the branches of learning taught; whilst it is gratifying to know, that the influence which this mode of instruction exerts upon the habits and morals of those youth who partake of its benefits, is of the happiest character.

Beside the general superintendence which we are by law required to extend over the Schools, we have not been unmindful of the special duty of

selecting suitable books for the use of the children; and in this department, considerable progress has been made since the year 1818.

Orders have been drawn upon the County Treasurer, from the first of January to the thirty-first of December, 1819, amounting to 29,361 dollars, 7 cents: of this sum, 9,843 dollars, 11 cents,* have defrayed all the expenses for the support of the Schools, and the balance, 19,517 dollars, 96 cents, is invested in real estate and furniture to the credit of the district. The fact, established by this representation, is highly important, since it shows that the education of each child, *is annually less than four dollars*. Whilst, however, economy of expense is an interesting characteristic of the system, now in successful operation, it is by no means the most prominent feature which recommends a great and liberal plan of Public Instruction, to the support and affections of a discerning people. Those results which the temperate calculations of enlightened reason may expect from a scheme of education, resting

* Of this sum, 249 dollars, 16 cents, were paid for the education of children, resident in the country part of Penn Township, too remote to attend the Public School in that section, provision for which has been made by the legislature.

upon the sure basis of Christian benevolence, and administered with a due regard to political equality, are truly grand and imposing. The effects of such a system must elevate the moral and intellectual condition of our youth, and consequently fortify their minds against the assaults, which evil never fails to make upon virtue. If, therefore, by a judicious employment of the means afforded, the rising generation are prepared to enter upon the career of life, with all the advantages which certainly accompany the possession of practical learning; if their susceptible minds are early imbued with sound moral principles, and they are taught to form a just estimate of the obligations which they owe to themselves, as well as to comprehend the social duties which should be performed by all, for the general and permanent good of the community,—we may confidently look for that ameliorated state of society, which attempts at reformation, not in themselves radical, have hitherto failed to produce. With prospects like these, already dawning upon us, we feel bound to recommend the subject of Public Education to the serious regard of our constituents, on whom much will depend, whether the advantages of the existing institution are as exten-

sively embraced, as would be desirable. Individual admonition to parents on the utility of sending their children to school, as well as endeavouring to remove from their minds any prejudice which the illiberal and interested may attempt to produce, by asserting, that the establishments under the law of the state, are merely a *reluctant charity*, would essentially aid the important work. A just conception of the design of the constitution, and of the aims of philanthropy, would rather authorize the opinion, that in making this wise provision for education, it was intended to gather every indigent child under the parental wing and genial care of the commonwealth.

Desirous, notwithstanding, of being ever mindful that human exertions for advancing the welfare of mankind, can only prove availing through the interposition, and blessing, of the beneficent Ruler of all things, it is incumbent upon us to commend these humble efforts, and purposes, to the favour of Heaven.

By order of the Controllers of the Public Schools,

ROBERTS VAUX, *President*

*Chamber of the Controllers,
February 1, 1820.*

To the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

THE Auditors of the County of Philadelphia, appointed under the provisions of an Act of Assembly, passed on the 6th day of March, 1818, to provide for the Education of Poor Children within the City and County of Philadelphia, to examine and settle the accounts of the "Comptrollers and Directors of the Public Schools within the said District," respectfully state:

That they have carefully examined said accounts and compared them with the vouchers produced in support thereof, and submit the following statement, showing a detailed account of their receipts and disbursements, as well as the number of Children under their respective charges.

In relation to the accounts of the Comptrollers, the Auditors report, That from the first day of January, until the 31st day of December 1819, they drew orders on the Treasurer of the County, agreeably to the provisions of the above mentioned act, authorising the same, amounting to twenty-nine thousand, three hundred and sixty-one dollars and seven cents; and that the County Commissioners drew orders on the Treasurer, without the knowledge of the Comptrollers, amounting to two thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine dollars and seventy-five cents. The whole of which is charged as follows.

	DR.	CR.
<i>Model School Building on Chester Street.</i>		32,330 82
Paid bricklayer, carpenter, and other mechanics, and for materials for finishing said School House,	4,938 39	
Paid for Teachers' salaries, stationary and other contingent expenses, - - - - -	2,157 36	
Paid for School Furniture, - - - - -	861 96	
	<hr/>	7,957 71

First Section, comprehending the City of Philadelphia.

Buildings situate on Lombard Street.—Lots were originally taken up by the Comptrollers, on a ground rent of 410 dollars per annum, of which ground rent 185 dollars per annum, was purchased off by the County Commissioners, without the knowledge of the Comptrollers of the Public Schools, of Bloomfield M'Ilvaine, for

2,898 36
Bricklayer, carpenter, painting, glazing, and materials for building, - - - - -
8,562 78
Paid for Teachers' salaries, stationary and other contingent expenses, - - - - -
111 02
Paid for School furniture, - - - - -
830 93

12,403 06

Carried forward,

Dollars, 20,360 77 32,330 82

Brought forward, DR. CR.
Dollars, 20,360 77 32,330

Second Section comprehending part of the Northern Liberties and Kensington.

Building, situate in Kensington.—Cost of lot of ground,	1,000 00	
Paid on account of materials, bricklayer, carpenter and other mechanics for work, - - - - -	3,121 27	
Paid for Teachers' salaries, stationary and other contingent expenses, including rent of the Adelphi School and of the Kensington School, until the new building was occupied, - - - - -	2,578 33	
Paid for teaching by the Commissioners without Comptrollers' knowledge, - - - - -	8 00	
Paid for School furniture, - - - - -	82 06	
	<hr/>	6,789 66

Third Section, comprehending Southwark, Moyamensing and Passyunk.

Paid for four Teachers' salaries and rent of two Schools, including stationary and other contingent expenses,	2,815 10	
Paid for School furniture, - - - - -	98 95	
	<hr/>	2,914 05

Fourth Section, Penn Township.

Paid for Teacher's salary, rent, stationary and other contingent expenses, - - - - -	1,027 54	
Paid J. Piper by the Commissioners, without Comptrollers' knowledge, - - - - -	31 00	
Paid for School furniture, - - - - -	21 62	
	<hr/>	1,080 16

General Expenses.

Paid William Birnie and Thomas M. Pettit, secretaries of the Board, - - - - -	150 00	
Accountant for arranging accounts, - - - - -	300 00	
Secretary of the Board, for petty expenses, - - -	70 00	
Stationary, advertising, and for office furniture, - -	331 86	
For books for all the Schools, - - - - -	301 90	
Paid for advertising, &c. by the Commissioners, without the knowledge of the Comptrollers, - - - - -	32 42	
	<hr/>	1,186 18
	Dollars, 32,330 82	32,330

The County of Philadelphia in account with the Comptrollers of the Public Schools of the First School District of the State of Pennsylvania:

1819, December 31.

	DR.	CR.
By Cash, balance in the hands of Thomas M. Pettit, Secretary to the Board, so much unexpended of monies placed in his hands to meet contingent expenses of the Board, - - - - -		9 81
By Model School Real Estate and Building, as per annexed statement, - - - - -		4,938 39
By Model School furniture, estimated at cost, - - - - -		861 96
By cost of lot and building, First Section, - - - - -		11,461 11
By School furniture ditto, - - - - -		830 93
By cost of lot and building, Second Section, - - - - -		4,121 27
By School furniture ditto, - - - - -		82 06
By School furniture, Third Section, - - - - -		98 95
By School furniture, Fourth Section, - - - - -		21 62
To Balance to the Credit of the County, Dollars,	22,426 10	22,426 10

RECAPITULATION.

Amount expended as per preceding statement, for the purchase of ground and erection of School Houses, purchase of School furniture, Teachers' salaries and incidental charges, - - - - -	32,330 82
Less balance in the hands of Secretary, - - - - -	9 81
	32,321 01
Deduct estimated value of Real Estate and School Furniture, - - - - -	22,416 29
	Dollars, 9,904 72
Of which paid by orders drawn by Comptrollers - - - - -	9,843 11
Less in Secretary's hands, - - - - -	9 81
	9,833 30
Paid by Commissioners without the knowledge of Comptrollers, - - - - -	71 42
	Dollars, 9,904 72

Which sum is expended and chargeable to the education of 3,268 Children, viz. 1,677 boys and 1,591 girls, upon an average of 3 dollars 3 1-12th cents each per annum.

SAMUEL PANCOAST, JUN.
WILLIAM J. BAKER,
JNO. ROBERTS.

Auditors of the County of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, February 14, 1820.

AN ABSTRACT

Of the Act of the 6th of March, 1818, for the Education of Children at Public Expense within the City and County of Philadelphia.

Preamble. That the provisions of the existing laws had not proved a public benefit, commensurate to the expense.

SECTION 1. City and County to be "The First School District of the State of Pennsylvania," divided into four sections: City, first—Northern Liberties and Kensington, second—Southwark, Moyamensing and Passyunk, third—Penn Township, fourth.

SECTION 2. Between the 1st and 20th of January, City Councils to elect twenty-four Directors; Commissioners of the Northern Liberties, twelve; Southwark, six; Moyamensing, six; Spring Garden, six. Names to be transmitted to the County Commissioners, who are to publish the same, and to give notice to each.

SECTION 3. Directors to elect one Director for every six, to be "*The Controllers of the Public Schools, for the City and County of Philadelphia.*"

SECTION 4. Directors and Controllers to continue one month after a new appointment. In case of death, removal, or resignation, to supply vacancies.

SECTION 5. Controllers to determine the number, and limit the expense of schools. To establish a model school, to qualify teachers for sectional schools, in other parts of the state. To provide suitable books; to have the superintendence of all schools in the district; to make rules for their own government, and for the district; to appoint a Secretary; salary not to exceed two hundred dollars.

SECTION 6 and 8. Controllers to examine all accounts of money disbursed in erecting, establishing, and maintaining schools. County Treasurer to pay orders signed by the President and Secretary at any meeting, if a majority be present. Penalty for drawing orders unless a majority be present, double amount of such orders on each controller present.

SECTION 7. Controllers to meet at least quarterly; may call special meetings; keep minutes and books of accounts, to be examined and settled annually, by the County Auditors. Controllers to publish in February, of each year, the amount of expenditure and the number of children educated.

SECTION 9. Directors to erect and establish the schools determined upon by the Controllers; to appoint teachers, and provide all things necessary for, and to superintend the schools; to meet at least monthly; keep minutes; divide themselves into as many committees as schools, so that every committee may have the charge of one school only. Committees to keep minutes, to be exhibited to the Directors when required. Directors to report to Controllers the state of the schools every six months. To be allowed no compensation, be exempt as jurors, arbitrators, overseers of the poor, and from militia duty.

SECTION 10. Lancaster's system in its most improved state adopted, except in the townships of Oxford, Byberry, Moreland, Lower Dublin, Germantown, Bristol, Roxborough, Blockley, and Kingsess.

SECTION 11. Court of Quarter Sessions on petition of twenty taxables, residing in the part of the district described therein, to establish a new section, the boundaries of which to be clearly set forth, to appoint a day not less than thirty from the time of presenting for the hearing. Court to direct notice of the substance of the petition, and the time appointed for hearing, and notice to the President and Secretary of the Controllers. If no objection, the Court may direct the new section, and number of directors. Copy of proceedings to be transmitted to the Controllers.

SECTION 12. Assessors when required by Controllers or Directors, to receive the names of all indigent orphan children, or children of indigent parents, of boys between six and fourteen, and of girls between five and thirteen, and to inform parents &c. that their children may be sent to school free of expense; and children thus returned if approved by Controllers or Directors, may be admitted. If names be omitted by Assessors, Controllers or Directors, to place names on the list; Assessors to be allowed a reasonable compensation, to be fixed by the Commissioners; penalty on neglect of duty twenty dollars to the County.

SECTION 13. Proceedings to discontinue the old system; notice to Commissioners, as soon as new schools are ready to be put in operation, after which expense of education not to be paid for by the Commissioners.

SECTION 14. Whereas Lancaster's system may not be convenient in all parts of the county; townships of Lower Dublin, Byberry and Moreland, to be the *fifth section*; and Court of Quarter Sessions, to appoint twelve inhabitants Directors, viz. four for Oxford, four for Lower Dublin, two for Byberry, two for Moreland. Germantown, Bristol, and Roxborough, to be the *sixth section*, with eight Directors; four for Germantown, two for Bristol, and two for Roxborough. Blockley and Kingsess, to be the *seventh section*, with five Directors; three for Blockley and two for Kingsess. Directors to superintend the educating of poor children; determine what children fall within that description, and to what schools they may be sent; to draw from the County funds in same proportion as other sections. Assessor to make returns to them. All other parts of the act, so far as the same are applicable to the provisions of this section, to be considered in full force. If any of the Townships choose to avail themselves of the eleventh section, similar proceedings to be had.

CONTROLLERS ELECT, FOR 1820.

Roberts Vaux,	}	Representatives of 1st Section.
Joseph Reed,		
Thomas Stewardson,		
William Fry,		

Peter Keyser,	}	Representatives of 2d Section.
John C. Browne,		

James Ronaldson,	}	Representatives of 3d Section.
Joel B. Sutherland,		

David Woelpper,	Representative of 4th Section.
-----------------	--------------------------------

This Board will assemble on the 2d of March, and choose its officers.

DIRECTORS.

First Section. City of Philadelphia.

James N. Barker, Chairman,	Samuel J. Robbins,
Joseph Reed,	Daniel B. Smith,
Roberts Vaux,	Robert Walsh, Jun.
Thomas Stewardson,	William W. Fisher,
William Fry,	Rev. Thomas Sargent,
William J. Duane,	Rev. Michael Hurley, D. D.
Rev. Philip H. Mayer,	Richard C. Wood,
Joseph M. Paul,	Rev. William A. Muhlenberg,
Jonah Thompson,	Thomas F. Leaming,
Jonathan Fell, Jun.	Robert M. Patterson, M. D.
Reuben Haines,	William Duncan,
Rev. William Neil, D. D.	John Claxton.

Daniel B. Smith, *Secretary.*

Second Section. Northern Liberties and Kensington.

Peter Keyser,	Jno. Taylor, Front street,
John C. Browne,	Joseph Warner,
George F. Goodman,	George C. Schiveley,
William Binder,	Thomas Bacon,
Jacob Justice,	William Fitler,
Joseph Lukens,	George Knorr.

Third Section. Southwark, Moyamensing, and Passyunk.

Benjamin Martin,	Thomas Dixey,
Joel B. Sutherland,	James Ronaldson,
George C. Snyder,	James M'Cann,
Robert M'Mullin, Jun.	Joshua Raybold,
George M'Leod,	Jacob Snyder,
John Turner, Jun.	Robert Loughead.

Fourth Section. Penn Township.

David Woelpper,	George Esher,
William Warner,	Martin Ludie,
Joseph B. Norbury,	Henry Urben.

The following are the Schools in the different Sections, viz.

FIRST SECTION.

Two Schools in Model School House, in Chester street.

Two Schools in School House in Lombard street.

SECOND SECTION.

Two Schools in Adelphi School House, in Pegg's street, between Front and Second streets.

Two Schools in the new School House in Kensington.

THIRD SECTION.

Two Schools in Paul Beck's School House in Moyamensing.

Two Schools in Commissioners' Hall, Second street below Queen street.

FOURTH SECTION.

One School for Boys and Girls, in Buttonwood Lane.

